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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

17 January 1979

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

During 1975 and 1976 the Central Intelligence Agency was the subject of intensive investigations by the Rockefeller Commission of CIA activities within the United States, and the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities. These investigations disclosed that CIA, during the 1950's and 1960's was interested in research having to do with the influence of drugs on human behavior. Unfortunately, documents believed at the time to have been all of the CIA records related to drug research were destroyed some years before the investigative process began. In 1977, however, the Agency discovered in its archives a quantity of financial documents that shed some light on the historical Agency interest in drug research. The discovery of these records was reported to the Senate and, in August 1977 the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research of the Senate Committee on Human Resources conducted joint hearings to learn of their full implications.

As a result of these hearings, it was concluded that the Agency should attempt to seek out and notify individuals who were the subjects of drug research and experimentation without their knowledge and informed consent if they might still be suffering harmful aftereffects. The purpose of the notification would be to fulfill any responsibility the Government may have for the well being of subjects who may have been harmed by an action of the Government. Such a responsibility may exist in cases where the studies were conducted under the direction or control of the CIA and where substances that may have caused harmful long term aftereffects were administered without the knowledge or informed consent of the individuals. In undertaking to fulfill any responsibilities it might have, the Agency cannot, of course, relieve or indemnify participating researchers or institutions for any liabilities they may have.

Unfortunately, the facts in our surviving records are so fragmentary that it is difficult to make informed judgments about whether the substances used or the conditions under which the research was conducted might require notification of the individuals involved. We are compelled, therefore, to solicit the cooperation and assistance of institutions and individuals who may have some records or recollections that would be helpful.

RELEASED July 2000

We find that you were directly interested in some aspects of the MKULTRA program during your association with the Ionia State Hospital in Michigan. If you have any records or recollections that would help us to determine whether individuals who may have been involved as subjects in drug research or experimentation might have been adversely affected, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. If it would serve your convenience we would be pleased to have a representative of the Agency visit you to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,